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It is an incalculable added pleasure to any one's sum of happiness if he or she grows to know, even slightly and imperfectly, how to read and enjoy the wonder-book of nature.

~ Theodore Roosevelt
Politician, Author, Historian, Explorer, Conservationist
1858-1919

PEOPLE & PLACES

Holiday Show

The **2013 MoNEP Holiday Show** and party will be held on **Tuesday, December 10th**, at **6:00 p.m.** at **The Ethical Society in Clayton**. The address is **9001 Clayton Avenue**, **St. Louis, 63117**. This annual event is a nice opportunity to socialize with other MoNEP members and to enjoy a fabulous digital presentation of members' images set to music by **Jerry Miller** and **Pat Burgess.**

Ethical Society Entry:
Please note that parking and the evening entry to The Ethical Society are at the rear of the building. Follow the driveway down the hill and along the side of the building to the large parking lot at the back. Enter through the door on the right hand side of the lower level as you face the building from that lot.

Refreshments:
Food and drinks will be served in the large meeting room on the lower level of The Ethical Society starting at **6:00 p.m.** Attendees can gather there before and after the presentation. **Judy** and **Jim Stroup** are joining **Margy** and **Dan Terpstra** as the coordinators of the party this year. MoNEP will provide finger foods, wine, beer and soft drinks. If you are willing to bring an appetizer or dessert, please make sure that whatever you bring is easily served and can be eaten without cutlery. For planning purposes, please email Margy at **hummerhaven@sbcglobal.net** to let her know what you are bringing.

During the evening, please take a moment to introduce yourself to someone you don't already know and to thank our wonderful volunteers who make this event possible. You are welcome to invite family and friends to enjoy the evening with you.

Presentation:
Jerry Miller and Pat Burgess are busy preparing another spectacular annual holiday slide show. The show will begin at about **7:45 p.m. in the auditorium**. Please remember that food and drinks are not allowed in the auditorium.

Volunteers needed:
Margy and Dan would like to have 3 volunteers to help with set-up starting at 5:30 p.m. and another 6 to help with clean up after the event. If you are able to volunteer for one of these tasks, please contact Dan or Margy by email or by phone at **314-606-6957**. Judy and Jim would like to have 4 volunteers to help monitor the food areas. If you are able to help in this way, please email Judy at **jstroup01@charter.net** or call the Stroups at **314-843-0417**.

We hope you will join us for this special evening to celebrate the holidays and another great year for MoNEP and its members!

Holiday Cards for a Cause

St. Louis Camera Club President, **Karen Kotner** has a set of beautiful holiday cards for sale at the Siteman Cancer Center in the city's Central West End. The cards come in a mixed box of five images and sell for $5 a box. Proceeds will help provide financial assistance for patients in need at Siteman's Breast Health Center. Cards may be purchased in the Barnhard Health and Cancer Information Center, located in the lobby of the Center for Advanced Medicine on Siteman's main campus at 4291 Parkview Place in St. Louis.

Member News

Richard Spener is one of the twelve finalists in the 2013 **Theodore Roosevelt National Park** photo contest. All the finalists will have their images printed in the 2014 Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association calendar, which raises funds to support North Dakota's national parks and wildlife refuges. Richard's winning image is of a bison silhouetted on the side of a hill with the Badlands in the background. The grand prizewinner will be announced on December 7th.

Richard Spener

Sammylane Wirth has won an award in the **Senior Artist Competition** in Photography at **Southwestern Illinois College** for the second straight year. The winning works, created by East Side residents over 60, were displayed at the SWIC Belleville Campus in October. Sammylane's winning image was ***Red in a Sea of Yellow***.

Sammylane Wirth

MoNEP Speaker Wins Award

Greg Basco has won a very prestigious **Nature's Best Windland Smith Rice International** photography competition award. His award is in the **Art in Nature** category. All of the winning and honored images will be featured in the Fall/Winter issue of *Nature's Best Photography* magazine. This is the second time Greg has won one of these coveted honors. Over 25,000 images were submitted in this year's competition in a range of categories.

October Speaker Recap

Birds are in trouble and need our help. According to the St. Louis Audubon Society's Executive Director, **Mitch Leachman**, 20 common bird species have declined in number by over 50% in the last 40 years. Over 30% of the nation's 800 bird species are at risk. One of the factors at play in this decline is habitat loss. 99% of Missouri prairies and 90% of the state's wetlands are gone. Developed land in the St. Louis area has grown three-fold since 1960. It is estimated that throughout the U.S. 1 billion birds die each year hitting windows and that ½ billion birds are killed by cats.

Although those numbers are alarming and depressing, there are things that each of us can do to help reverse that trend. Mitch highlighted the St. Louis Audubon Society's program, ***Bring Conservation Home***, which seeks to create a growing mosaic of functional habitats throughout the region.

What is a functional habitat? It is one that meets the needs of native wildlife by using more native plant species in the landscape. Native insects in our area rely heavily upon native plants for food. Few insects find food from the non-native plants that are so prevalent in our yards and gardens. Our use of non-native plants as well as herbicides and pesticides has reduced the native insect population. Every Missouri songbird eats insects as a source of protein, which also contributes to the decline in the bird population.

St. Louis Audubon promotes the practice of naturescaping, which offers many benefits to plants and animals, including humans. Its benefits to the environment and to us include:

- more tree cover
- reduced storm runoff
- less grass to mow
- less watering
- reduced greenhouse emissions
- reduced pesticide and herbicide use
- varied nature experiences in your own backyard

One of the great features of the program is that for a nominal fee of $25 homeowners receive a visit from a team of St. Louis Audubon's trained habitat advisors. They tour the property and create an extensive report with recommendations of simple steps to improve the land's value as habitat. They take a holistic approach, addressing both needs and threats to creating a more functional backyard habitat.

Visit **www.stlouisaudubon.org** to learn more about the project. We thank Mitch for a very informative program.

Norma Mull

Thirsty Tiger
Butch Lama

MEETINGS & programs

November Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 19th
Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: The Ethical Society

Meeting Location & Time

We have recently changed MoNEP's meeting time and location. For the next five months we will meet at **The Ethical Society** from **7:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Meetings will take place in the large room on the lowest level of the building.

The Ethical Society is located **at 9001 Clayton Road, Richmond Heights, Missouri, 63117**. It is west of Brentwood Boulevard on the right hand side of the road. Go down the steep driveway to the back of the building where there is a large parking lot. Use the back entrance to the lower level from the parking lot. It is toward the right end of the back of the building.

Set-Up Help Wanted:
We could use help setting up and taking down chairs before and after the meeting. If you are able to help with setup, please be at The Ethical Society by 6:30 on the evening of the meeting.

After Meeting Socializing:
After the meeting, everyone is invited to the **Plaza Grill** at the **Crowne Plaza Hotel** in downtown Clayton where you can get a bite to eat and visit with fellow members. It is located at **7750 Carondelet** at the southeast corner of Carondelet and Bemiston Avenues.

Share and Show Nature Images – due 11/16

Members are invited to share up to **four (4) nature-related images** at the upcoming meeting. The theme for **November is *Backlight or Silhouettes***. Please follow the instructions on ***Uploading Share and Show Images*** in the tips section at **monep.org**. We ask that you:

- Resize your images so vertical images are 768 pixels high and horizontal images are 768 pixels wide.
- Save your images as .jpg files.
- Name your resized images with your name, the year and the month of the meeting: Membername-1311-1 for the first image, -2 for the next, etc.
- Place your four resized images in their own folder with your name and the month of the meeting.
- Compress your folder with its four resized images into a zip file.
- Send your zipped images via email to **share@monep.org by midnight, Saturday, 11/16**.

Upcoming Share and Show Themes

November 19th Share and Show:
Backlight/Silhouettes
January 21st Share and Show: Water

November 19th Meeting – Jim Flasar

Dr. **Jim Flasar** will be our presenter at the November meeting. During his talk, ***Dives with Teeth***, he will share images and information on his specialty, underwater photography. An outstanding photographer, Jim has been diving and photographing around the world since 1986. His program will focus on several different species of sharks, including tiger, oceanic white tip and bull sharks. It will also include the spectacular sailfish, using their bait-ball technique to obtain their prey. Lighting techniques, composition, exposure, and strategies for staying alive will be discussed. This program is one that is both fascinating and beautiful. You will not want to miss it, even if you have no intention of diving with sharks yourself! When he is not exploring the ocean and its amazing creatures, Jim is a veterinarian with a practice in Chesterfield.

Jim Flasar

January 21st Meeting – Richard Day

Richard Day will be back as a presenter at our January meeting. The title of his program is ***From Start to Finish: Photo Workflow and Backups***. Richard will explain the workflow he uses to organize, file, and backup photos for Daybreak Imagery. He will provide tips for photo editing, downloading images, and setting up a filing system so you can find your images later. Also included will be a brief processing session followed by a discussion of various backup options.

Shaw Photography Series

There are still a few spots available in upcoming workshops that are a part of the Shaw Photography Series. These include:

- ***Creating Your Own Light: Flash and Flashlights for Nature Photography*** with **Greg Basco**, 12/14/13

- ***Techniques & Equipment for Photographing Missouri Wildlife*** with **Danny Brown**, 1/11/14

- ***Shooting & Sharing: Photography in the Age of Social Media*** with **Jeff Hirsch**, 2/8/14

Visit **shawnature.org** for more information. The presenters and topics for the spring have yet to be announced, but planning is underway. Stay tuned for the spring listings, which should come out February 1st.

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Visit our web-site at www.monep.org			

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